



## **CARES Act- Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students INFORMATION**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government has introduced a new law, **the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)**, which provides some relief to student borrowers.

### **Student Loan Payment Pause**

One of the main features of the CARES Act is a 6-month automatic suspension of principal and interest payments on certain federal student loans. This automatic payment pause ends on September 30, 2020.

Your loans are eligible, and you don't have to make any principal or interest payments until September 30, 2020.

You don't need to apply for the student loan payment pause benefit. The payment pause and interest waiver is automatically applied to your loan. However, don't just take this for granted. It is always a good idea to log into your account to confirm that your federal student loans are not accruing any interest

### **Emergency Grant Funds for Students**

Emergency grant funding is available through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

These emergency grants will assist students who experience financial hardships with expenses related to the disruption of campus operations, including, but not limited to:

- Assistance with the purchase of food
- Needs related to housing/rent/utilities
- The purchase of course materials
- Technology-related needs
- Assistance with healthcare and/or childcare expenses

### **Student Eligibility Criteria (must meet all criteria)**

- A student who is currently enrolled in a Title IV program for the spring 2020 semester on or after March 13, 2020
- A student who is or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended

*If a student has filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), then the student has demonstrated eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 the HEA. Students who have not filed a FAFSA, but who are eligible to file a FAFSA, may also receive emergency financial aid grants.*

- A student who has been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and has an emergency need
- Must be a U.S. citizen or must meet the definition of an eligible non-citizen based on federal financial aid requirements

The funds must be used to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 that have impacted a student's educational experience, including the allowable expenses listed above. SCTC's administrative team will make final determinations on which students receive emergency funds and how much each qualifying student receives based on information obtained in the accompanying grant application.

*Students who did not apply for funding during the first round of disbursements but have experienced subsequent hardship after the original deadline are encouraged to apply during this second application period. Prior applicants DO NOT need to reapply for the second disbursement.*

**Applications must be returned to the Financial Aid office by July 1, 2020, in order to be considered for the second round of emergency grant assistance.** SCTC reserves the right to use professional discretion to award these funds, and all decisions made by the selection team are final.